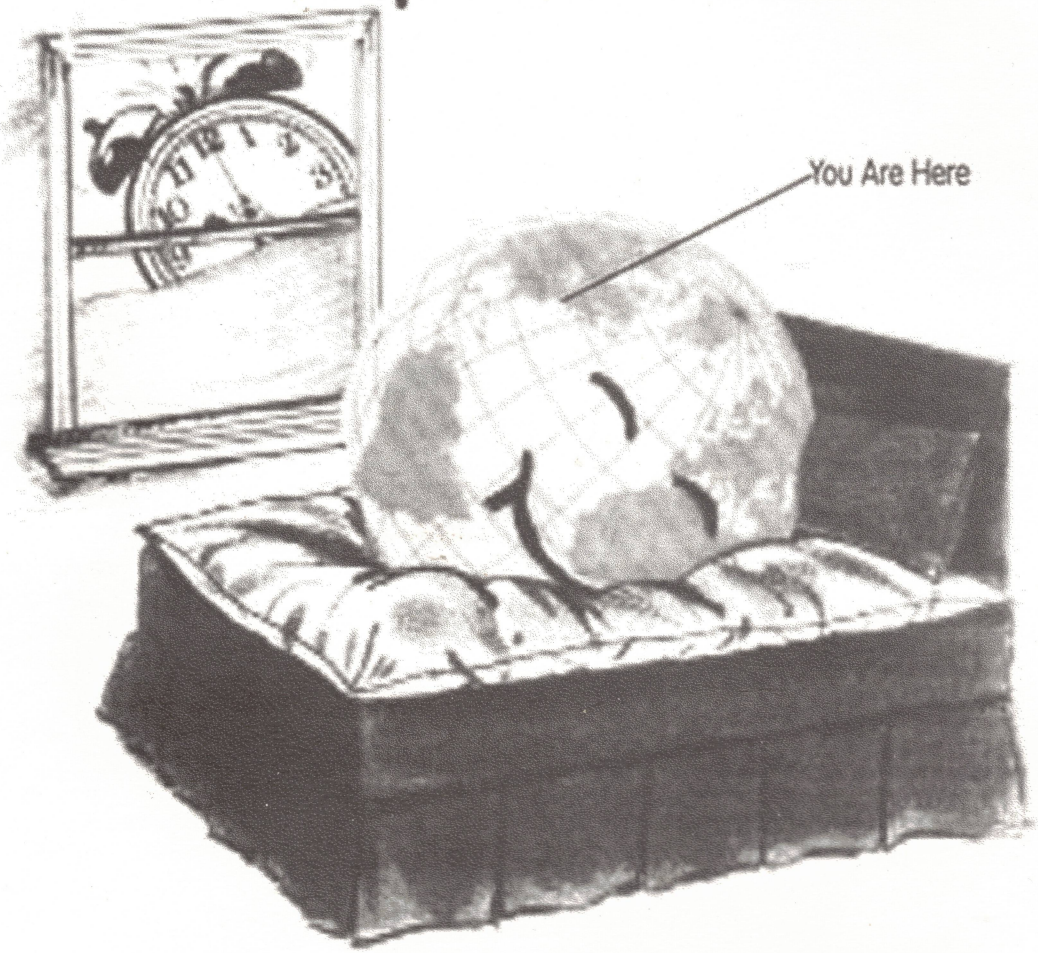
Spontaneous Celebrations 1999

Innovative Moves Real Estate

Is proud to participate

in the 21st annual

Wake Up the Earth Festival



Wake Up the Earth has become one of Jamaica Plain's signature events. It draws attention to how important our earth and natural resources are to our community, and to the quality of our lives. ***Innovative Moves Real Estate*** takes great pride in helping to sponsor this event, and wishes to extend our thanks to Fernka Rosenbaum and the Spontaneous Celebrations' staff for their continued success.

Real Estate *Innovative Moves, Inc.*

726 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
617-522-0020

2A Corinth Street, Roslindale, MA 02131
617-325-8400

MAY DAY

Letter from the Editor-In-Chief

Yahoo, It's spring! As the earth responds to her inner alarm clock, I feel lucky to have The Wake Up the Earth Festival and Parade. To celebrate and revel in the glory of the season is an imperative. I love to watch the children frolic, and the adults acting like children.

The festival is 21 years old this year, a wizened mature age for a celebration which is thousands of years old. It is as if the festival has grown into an adult--embodying a sense of independent energy which we all feel as we hit our twenty-first birthdays. This smacks of a contradiction just like America herself so young a country, so ancient a land.

I feel grateful to be a part of this Boston community and for the opportunity to work with so many wonderful and talented individuals! I invite anyone touched by this event to find some way to become involved in it for the year 2000.

I would like to thank the communities of Jamaica Plain and Roxbury for the generosity of their spirits. The financial support from so many merchants demonstrates goodwill in abundance. It is this participation which makes the festival possible. Their efforts offer the much needed funds which meet the creative needs of the staff and volunteers to bring this day to reality. Only in an enlightened neighborhood could we expect to find this magnetized energy of support for the arts.

Let us enjoy the day. Let us celebrate being; let us understand each other and appreciate this moment of unity.

-Cailin O'Toole

WAKE UP THE EARTH Festival...
Founder:Femke Rosenbaum
Coordinator: Denis Moynihan
Entertainment: Guillaume Pouget
Parades: Hope Haff
Lisa Powell
Gloria Valentin
Workshops: George Anastos
Richie Goldstein
T-shirt Design: Connie Barbour

Book...
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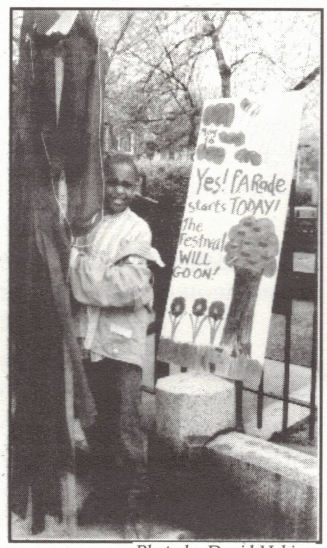

Photo by David Urbina

"Let the voice of the People be Heard!" Celebrating the Spirit of the Green and the Red

Hey nonny, nonny, and merry Spring to you, dear Reader. This, then, is the Wake Up the Earth Festival, wherein we celebrate our community and commemorate the ageless cycle of Nature that tends to us with nary a demand for payment, with not one double-click. The rain falls down on us without a weekly planner, the microbes conspire underground with the roots to fix the nitrogen that we eat to survive, oblivious to real estate values. Dandelions, crab apple trees and each hedge fund the Green that replenishes our oxygen, that welcomes the energy of the Sun and makes it available to us, whether in boom or bust we be.

We strive to mimic the harmony of Nature in our conduct. This ancient struggle we celebrate and commemorate as the Spirit of the Red, the pursuit for justice and equality for all. Here we plant a seed, for local-grown grassroots efforts, like the one in the 70's that defeated the plan to ram a 12-lane highway through these neighborhoods, on the very spot where this festival occurs. The forces of multinationals are today ascendent, and local control is daily lost to our community and all communities. Only a fool would miss out on the stock market bonanza. But how do I buy stock in my community?

"Nothing changes without individuals, and nothing remains without institutions." Spontaneous founder Femke Rosenbaum has tirelessly volunteered her time, artistry and passion to further the vision of community building embodied by this festival. She will this year recuse herself from the full-time directorship of the organization, and consult with us on what she loves, creating festivals and bringing people together. The challenge before us as a community is to try to fill her wooden shoes. Spontaneous has grown, and we need to hire a full-time executive director. For, this, we need more community support.

Spontaneous Celebrations helps create and sustain a community cultural life that unites and empowers people. Through the Wake Up the Festival, The Lantern Parade, our afterschool programs and other activities, diverse people from our neighborhoods meet, get together, and in so doing invest in the precious commodities that are in no mutual fund: home, community, and a strong civil society. Enjoy the festival, meet someone new, and consider becoming a member of Spontaneous Celebrations before you leave today.

Denis Moynihan and Hector the Jester, Festival co-coordinators

Spontaneous Celebrations

a community center that unites and empowers

Spontaneous Celebrations exists because 300 dedicated members pay annual dues. Without them, our work, this festival, would stop. Please consider becoming a member before leaving the festival today. Visit the Spontaneous Table.

A History of Community Celebration

Spontaneous Celebrations, a non-profit multi-cultural community organization located in Jamaica Plain, was created on the principle that the integration of popular education and community art projects foster an atmosphere to empower people in their respective groups and communities in order to effect social change. The organization has grown out of a twenty year history of community festivals involving many Jamaica Plain and Roxbury grassroots organizations.

The Wake Up The Earth festival was born in 1978. Its creators were part of a community that had already successfully stopped the construction of a superhighway through its neighborhood. In 1984, the group added the annual Lantern Parade to its activities. Ten years later in 1994, the artists and activists who had made up the initial core group supporting these activities acquired a building, the former German Club, at 45 Danforth Street in the Stonybrook neighborhood of Jamaica Plain.

Current Programs and Activities

In addition to Wake Up The Earth, Spontaneous Celebrations provides a wide variety of services to the community.

Festivals

The center sponsors four major festivals throughout the year. The Winter is welcomed by the Tropical Fiesta, the Fall by the Lantern Parade and the Haunted House, and the Spring, of course, by Wake Up The Earth. During the summer, we will be taking festival arts to the streets! Activities such as drumming, paper maché, singing and more will be brought out to local parks and areas around our building.

Youth Programs

Spontaneous Celebrations sponsors many visual and performing arts, as well as youth leadership workshops during afternoons and weekends. Young people of all ages participate in these activities. Much of this programming happens in collaboration with over a dozen local community organizations and existing after-school programs.

Classes for Adults

Classes for adults include yoga, tai-chi, meditation, Brazilian dance, and singing among others and are offered on a regular basis each season. Our newsletter informs members of upcoming classes and other opportunities.

Community Space and Safiro's Ethnic Kitchen

From birthday parties to political events, local theater to community meetings, Spontaneous houses a wide variety of community activities and is available to rent by local residents. Four days a week, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Safiro's Kitchen offers a delicious ethnic cuisine in a casual atmosphere at reasonable prices.

International Artists Fellowship

Spontaneous Celebrations relies on the expertise and artistry of artists from around the globe. In 1998 we began a new fellowship program through which we support international artists to visit the organization. Individuals spend a year with us, sharing their knowledge and creativity, and in turn, gather information about our work to bring back to their homelands.

How you can get involved

Spontaneous Celebrations is sustained through a membership base. We support and continue our festivals and programming by our member's generosity. Through annual membership, volunteer participation and board involvement, members shape the direction of the organization. Together, they are building a powerful community of artists, activists and local community residents. Please join us and become a Spontaneous member today.

Special Thanks from Spontaneous to ...

Aisling Flower Shop

703 Centre Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
617-524-7970 800-524-7970

Thank you for the countless flowers that you have donated over the years to the Wake Up the Earth Festival.

Christmas in April ☆ Boston

Guillermo Rivera-Pagan
Executive Director
(617) 296-0058
Fax (617) 296-0729

Thank you for fixing up our building! what a great gift you gave us!! Also for the plywood and buckets for the drum circle.

YouthBuild Boston

An Americorps Program

504 Dudley Street, Roxbury, MA 02119
617-445-8887
Fax 617-427-3950

Thank you for building the drum circle platform.

Midway Cafe

Thank you for throwing us a party for our volunteers.

David and Jay Balerna, Owners
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617-524-9038

Interstate Rental Service

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Thank you for donating the stage and being there for us.

Authorized Vacuums Inc.

841 Beacon Street
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Thank you for donating the vacuum!

Mi Casita

Welcomes the 21st Wake Up the Earth Festival!

THE SAME PEOPLE WHO BRING YOU CENTRE STREET CAFE
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THE JAMAICA PLAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

invites you to take
a walking tour of
Historic Jamaica Plain

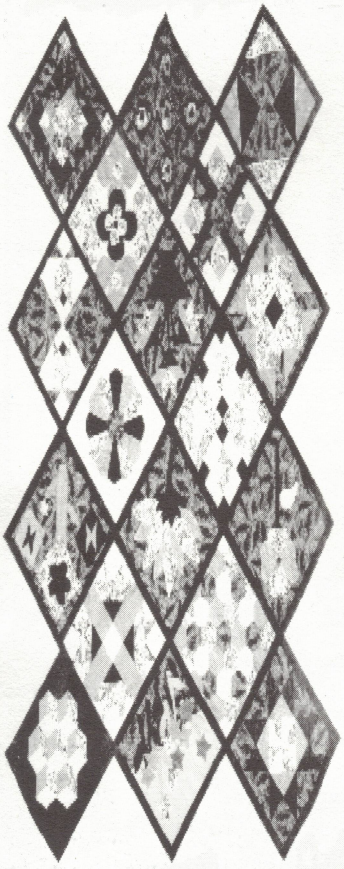
1999 season: June 5-Sept. 25
Each Saturday (except for holidays).
For a full schedule, call (617) 524-5992

Celebrate Historic Jamaica Plain!

Encounter Japan in Jamaica Plain!

Become a friend
to Showa students

To learn more about our program and
how you can get involved please call
Erin Naumann at 522-0080, x5514 or
e-mail at ecronin@showaboston.org



Planet Pizza

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- Mountain Bikes
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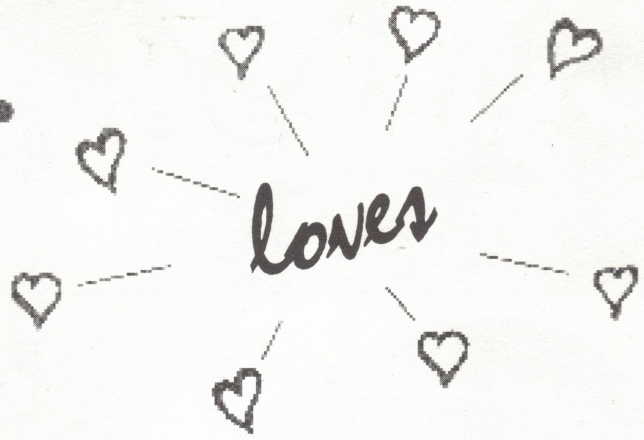
May 8 at NOON
Wake Up the Bike Ride!
Meet at Ferris Wheels
for the annual bicycle tour
of Jamaica Plain parks.

Festival Day
May 1 at 9 am
Bike decorating at Ferris Wheels

Fresh Hair



Wake Up the Earth!

When we come together as a community to celebrate the rebirth of the earth.

62 South St., Jamaica Plain 524-6867

Sorella's

Salutes the new millimeum and
the celebration's founder.

1999

Wake Up the Earth!

As always you can Wake Up everyday
with Sorella's 386-388 Centre St., Hyde Square, J.P.
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(617) 522-0054

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fax (617) 666-2080

THANK YOU

Spontaneous Celebrations

FOR MAKING JAMAICA PLAIN A BETTER PLACE!

MAXFIELD & COMPANY
REAL ESTATE

524-5431

This space sponsored by

Prudential Real Estate formerly known as Maxfield & Company Real Estate

May Day

The sun hanging
with hydrogen heat
As the earth revolves
the bodies moving
to the sound of the heat
as our spirit evolves
The future we aspire to
The past we learn from
Until the present is where
all the people come
to transcend
-col '99

"We as the People will get to the promised land." *-Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Congratulations
Spontaneous Celebrations
and
Wake Up the Earth 1999!

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helping women help themselves

Residental Programs: 5 mo. residental mental health alternative, 8 wk. battered women's program, 18 mo. transition housing program
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Business: (617) 522-3659 or (617) 427-9801

Dimock Community Health Center

Presents

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A Health Forum for All Women ***May 14, 1999***

Dimock Community Health Center
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Ph: 617.442.8800 ext. 1207

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To Spontaneous Celebrations
Congratulations on your Parade and Celebration
From Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center
(617) 983-4100

"Health Care for Everyone"

BECOME A CERTIFIED RAPE CRISIS COUNSELOR!

Survivor Assistance is currently seeking volunteers to provide information and referral to survivors of rape and sexual assault. Call the Volunteer/Training Coordinator at 983-5823 for more details about our April Training.

Haymarket People's Fund

Celebrates with *Spontaneous Celebrations* on their 21st annual *Wake Up The Earth* event.

HAYMARKET PEOPLE'S FUND

For information on how to receive a grant from Haymarket and for information on giving to Haymarket, please call (617)522-7676.

May Day

May 1

1999!

THE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF MAY DAY

"May Day is the union of the two best things in the world, the love of nature and the love of each other." --Leigh Hunt

This year the first Saturday of May lands on May 1st. Thus, our Wake Up the Earth festival is dedicated to the traditions and significance of May Day, one of the world's oldest holidays, celebrated internationally both by spring revelers and by workers. It is a day of merry making and maypoles as well as marches and struggle. It is a day to wake up the Earth, a day to shake up the system. It is a day for the Red and the Green of our traditions and visions to unite. This year we invited the Immigrants Workers Resource Center to co-sponsor May Day and asked other working-class organizations and unions to join in the celebration. The origin of May Day and the Maypole go back to prehistoric times and the celebrations of the changing seasons. Trees have been symbols of the vitality and fertility of nature and were used in various ways in spring festivals in antiquity. May Day festivals are descended from Greek fertility festivals and the Roman feast of flowers to the goddess Flora.

Their even remoter ancestry can be found in the festivals of India and Egypt in which the maypole was a central phallic symbol of fertility. The ancient Druids celebrated Beltane. In Elizabethan England, May Day festivity was the most popular people's holiday of the year. It was also celebrated in Africa and Latin America and when the pilgrims arrived in America, they found that the Native peoples had a variant of this spring holiday as well.

Winter was over; spring had come and renewed the earth once again. People went "a Maying" or gathering nuts in May. From the woods they brought back flowers, leaves, and boughs to decorate their homes and themselves with fauna. Trees and crops were planted, maypoles erected and danced around, people drank, made merry and made love. It was a celebration of all that was was free and life giving in the world. This is the tradition of the Green of May Day.

The festivities of May Day went on for at least three days during which no one worked. Therefore the holiday came under attack by authorities as the growing industrial revolution sought to enforce a puritan work ethic. Upset by the drinking and open sexuality of the holiday, all maypoles, dancing and games were outlawed in England in 1550. In 1664 the Puritans in England banned the celebration of May Day altogether. The people protested and renamed the day for Robin Hood and Maid Marion. A "Lord of Misrule" was chosen who declared that the land be redistributed. This movement took on great significance as there was an attack on the common

lands by the aristocracy and industrialists, who were privatizing the land by erecting fences. Those who used to live free on the commons were now evicted and could now longer support themselves. They were forced into working for wages in fields and factories. The struggle to celebrate May Day and Mother Earth took on a more politicized meaning in the struggle for the land ownership and the right to holiday time.

When the pilgrims came to America there were many indentured servants among the new arrivals. Among them there were celebrants of the forbidden May Day and the movement for common land. Rather than try to convert the Native peoples to Christianity, these peoples were attracted to common ownership of the land practiced by local Indian tribes.

One such man was Thomas Morton. He came to Massachusetts in l626, settled in Quincy and called the land Merry Mount. On May Day l627, he and Indian friends erected a huge Maypole, wrapped it in ribbons and topped it with deer antlers. The Englishmen and Indian woman danced together. Indians found a refuge at Merry Mount and soon runaway servants joined them. Morton befriended the Indians, thought them equal and sought to learn from them. Appreciating their way of life he even armed them against the English. Miles Standish and Gov. Endicott burned down his settlement and sent him and his followers back to England. Thus, the first May Day in America was forgotten and its practice stopped for over two hundred years although May Day continued to be a major spring festival all over Europe and the British Isles.

May Day became associated with people's struggles for the earth and for equality and thus the social reformer Robert Owen chose it as the day to be the people's new millennium. It was natural that the labor movement chose May lst as the day to struggle for the eight hour day whose slogan was: eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, eight hours for what we will." Later the slogan would be "Bread and Roses" as workers struggled not only for better wages and working

conditions but also for the right to also for the right to culture and leisure time.

The history of labor in the United States developed as a part of the American people's struggle against the growing industrial empires. Labor grew as monopoly grew, born of the conflict between them. Trade unionism, as we know it, was born as an effective national movement during the battles of the Civil War and the fight to free the slaves. While huge battles raged with the largest casualty figures in our nation's history, fortunes were being made as the government spent more than a million dollars a day for military needs. Amidst this, a whole people, four million former slaves were uprooted, homeless and often starving. Factories using new methods of mass production and the power of steam and coal, released energies that by the l890's made the US the world's first industrial power. Laborers faced enormous difficulties. They worked daily from eleven to fourteen hours, wages were decreased as they competed with freed slaves who were now being hired at reduced wages as well as immigrant indentured servants who had to pay corporations for their passage and livelihood.

It was against this background that Albert Parsons took an active part in the labor movement. Parsons, August Spies and others organized the International Working People's Association for the eight-hour day. Sixty thousand black workers joined the union as well as thousands of immigrants and it became one of the largest labor organizations in the world. At the l884 convention a resolution establishing the eight-hour day was unanimously adopted and urged that all labor join on May lst l886 to show their support. The capitalists and the press saw this as a date for a Communist working class insurrection and were determined to stop it.

May 1st 1886 fell on a Saturday. The workers, aware of the intended provocations of the police to incite violence, were exceptionally peaceful. The police, frustrated in their attempt to provoke an incident, turned their attention to the locked out workers at the

McCormick Harvester Workers who were waiting for the scab workers to exit at the end of the day. The police attacked them and fired at their backs as they ran. Six workers were killed. August Spies saw the massacre and called a protest meeting against the police violence for the next night at Haymarket Square.

Parsons and Spies spoke at the meeting. It was a peaceful meeting; the Mayor of Chicago dismissed the police. Parsons finished speaking at 10pm, left the meeting, and people began to adjourn. Suddenly, 180 policemen demanded that the meeting be dispersed, and there was a terrible explosion. A bomb had been thrown, one police was killed immediately and seven others fatally wounded.

The press declared that it made no difference if Parsons, Spies and others had not thrown the bomb. They should be hung for their general activities and political views. On October 9, 1886, the death sentence was passed on seven of the labor leaders. Despite widespread national and international protests, the Supreme Court refused to reopen the case. Spies spoke one sentence before being hanged: "There will come a time when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today." Parsons also spoke before he was hung and said: "Let the voice of the people be heard." His words have never been forgotten. They are in fact the slogan on our festival banners today.

In hanging the Haymarket martyrs, the industrial of the day were directing their blows at organized labor which they hoped to crush. The government, frightened by this movement, immediately declared the first Monday in September to be Labor Day to distance Americans from this revolutionary heritage. But their intentions were doomed as international working people's associations choose to mark May 1st as International Workers Day to honor the memory of the Haymarket martyrs. Even in recent times, May Day has had a powerful meaning for workers. It was this day that was chosen in South Africa for miners to begin their anti apartheid strike. Labor day is celebrated on May 1 in every country in the world except the USA where it originated and this is the red of May Day.

Our Wake Up the Earth Festival has always included an "Underground Movement" component. It is meant to symbolize the creative power of the sleeping buds and hibernating animals who burst into bloom and activity in spring. For too long, our labor heritage has been hidden from us. Today we are excited to share this history with you through the mural on the fence of our park, "The Red and the Green of Mayday." We are proud to march along with members of the Immigrant Workers Resource Center and other groups and unions advocating a fairer and better life for those who do the work of the world. More than ever because of our global economy, the working class must be united internationally to help one another. As Abraham Lincoln said: "The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation, should be one uniting all working people of all nations, tongues andkindreds." Thus today we sing Solidarity Forever!

-Judith Woodruff

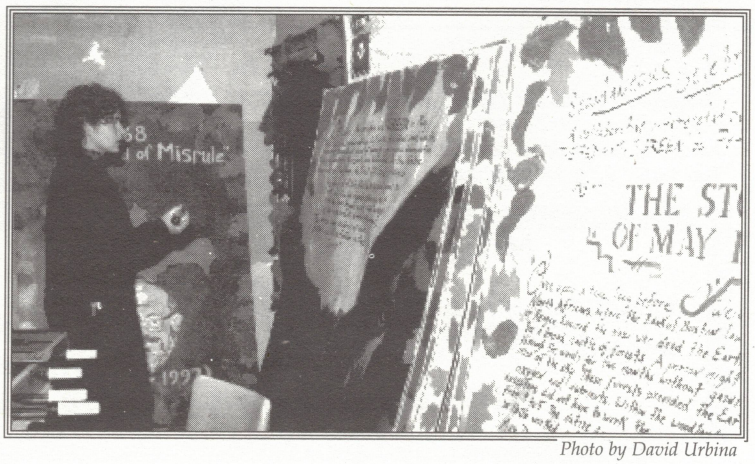
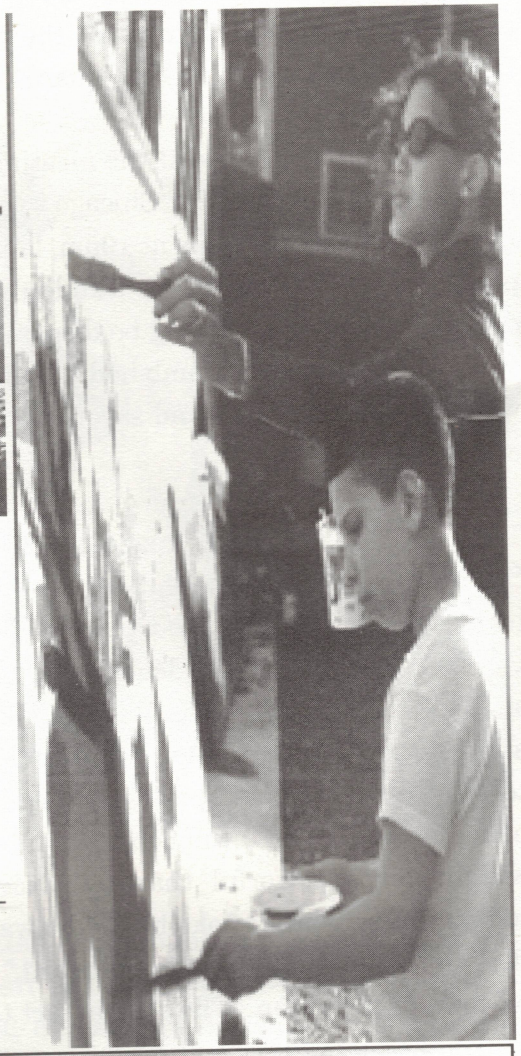


Photo by David Urbina

~ Egleston Eggstra ~



Spontaneous Celebrations has been working with the Egleston Square community for the past five years. It is our mission to build and strengthen communities in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury.

We have worked with one hundred children, making art for the parades and making installations to hang at the festival site. We also worked at the Hernandez playground , making music and art.

This year we worked with kids at the Egleston Square Library preparing art for the Wake Up the Earth Festival. During the summer we will be expanding to other parks throughout Jamaica Plain.

Kilroy Bros. Inc.
Moving & Storage

156 Arlington Street
Hyde Park, MA 02136
(617) 361-5900

Spontaneous recently donated its upright piano to young Egelston Square resident Marcus Johnson. Kilroy Bros. donated the moving.! Stay tuned for the first recital...

Mike LaDouceur Memorial Main Streets 5K Road Race
Sunday May 23, 1999 Start time: 10am
Starting Line: 315 Centre Street in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts
(Runners and walkers of all ages welcome)
Please call 983-2100 for registration information.

Thanks to all who have supported our efforts

For 25 years Urban Edge has supported community development in the neighborhoods of Egleston Square, Jackson Square, Jamaica Plain and Roxbury. Together we all make this community a better place to live and work.

Together we can do anything.

Urban Edge
2010 Columbus Ave - Roxbury, MA 02119
tel 617.522.5515 fax 617.522.5584

Juntos lo podemos lograr.

Gracia a todos los que han apoyado nuestros esfuerzos.

Por 25 anos Urban Edge ha apoyado el desarrollo comunal en los vencindarios de Egleston Square, Jackson Square, Jamaica Plain y Roxbury. Juntas hacemos de esta comunidad un mejor lugar de vida y de trabajo.

Jamaica Plain NDC
NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CONGRATULATES
SPONTANEOUS CELEBRATIONS
ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL
WAKE UP TH EARTH FESTIVAL

The Jamaica Plain NDC works to deveop affordable housing and create economic opportunities for Jamaica Plain residents. Call 522-2424 for more information.

Warm Greetings from
The Ecumenical Social Action Committee
ESAC
&
The Greater Egleston Community High School

Congratulations
Wake Up the Earth!

YMCA of Greater Boston
Keeping Families Strong

Egleston Square Youth Center
3134 Washington Street
Roxbury, MA 02119

Director
Wil Morales

CITY LIFE • VIDA URBANA

30 CHESTNUT AVENUE
JAMAICA PLAIN, MA
02130
(617) 524-3541

WAKE UP THE EARTH !

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Boston Main Streets

Egleston Square Main Street, Inc.

1979 COLUMBUS AVE. ROXBURY, MA 02119
EGLESTONSQUARE.DND@C1.BOSTON.MA.US
TEL. 617.983.2100 FAX: 617.983.2136

The Middle East

472/480 MASS AVE CENTRAL
SQUARE CAMBRIDGE MA 01239
(617) 864-EAST
WWW.MIDEASTCLUB.COM

Boston Community Capital

30 Germania Street
Jamaica Plain, Ma 02130
Phone (617) 522-6768
Fax (617) 522-7786

Creating and preserving healthy communities where low-income people live and work

WAKE UP THE EARTH!!
1999

Opening Soon!

¡Pronto abrirá!

WAINWRIGHT BANK & TRUST COMPANY

687 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

1-800-444-BANK

www.wainwrightbank.com

Immigrant Workers Resource Center

25 West Street, Boston, MA 02111 (617) 542-3342

El Centro de Recursos de los Trabajadores Inmigrantes es patrocinado por uniones y organizaciones de la communidad para promover el derecho de los trabajadores inmigrantes. El centro educa trabajadores, uniones, organizaciones de la communidad y agencias del gobierno acerca de las necesidades especiales de los trabajadores inmigrantes. Conjuntamente con organizaciones de trabajadores inmigrantes, centro entrena y empodera a los trabajadores para que hagan valer sus derechos en los lugares de trabajo.

☆ ☆ ☆

Sant IWRC a sponsorize pa inyon e organizasyon ki nan komiote a. Yo mete ansam pou rive pi o jwenn bon jan dwa pou kelkeswa Travaye Imigran. IWRC fe edikayson travaye, inyon, organizasyon kominote ak anjans gouvenman sou bezwen espesyal trtavaye imigran. Nan konjonksyon ak organizasyon travaye imigran, sant la bay antreman ak pouvwa pou defan dwa yo kote yap travay la.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Immigrant Workers Resource Center is sponsored by unions and community organizations to promote the rights of immigrant workers. The IWRC educates workers, unions, community organizations, and government agencies about the special needs of immigrant workers. In conjunction with immigrant workers' organizations, the Center trains and empowers immigrants to assert their workplace rights.

OPENING SOON!

HARVEST

CO-OP MARKETS

Cambridge • Jamaica Plain

WATCH FOR OUR GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION THIS SPRING!

SPECIALIZING IN FRESH PRODUCE, MEATS, SEAFOOD, CHEESES, BREADS AND NATURAL & ORGANIC FOODS!

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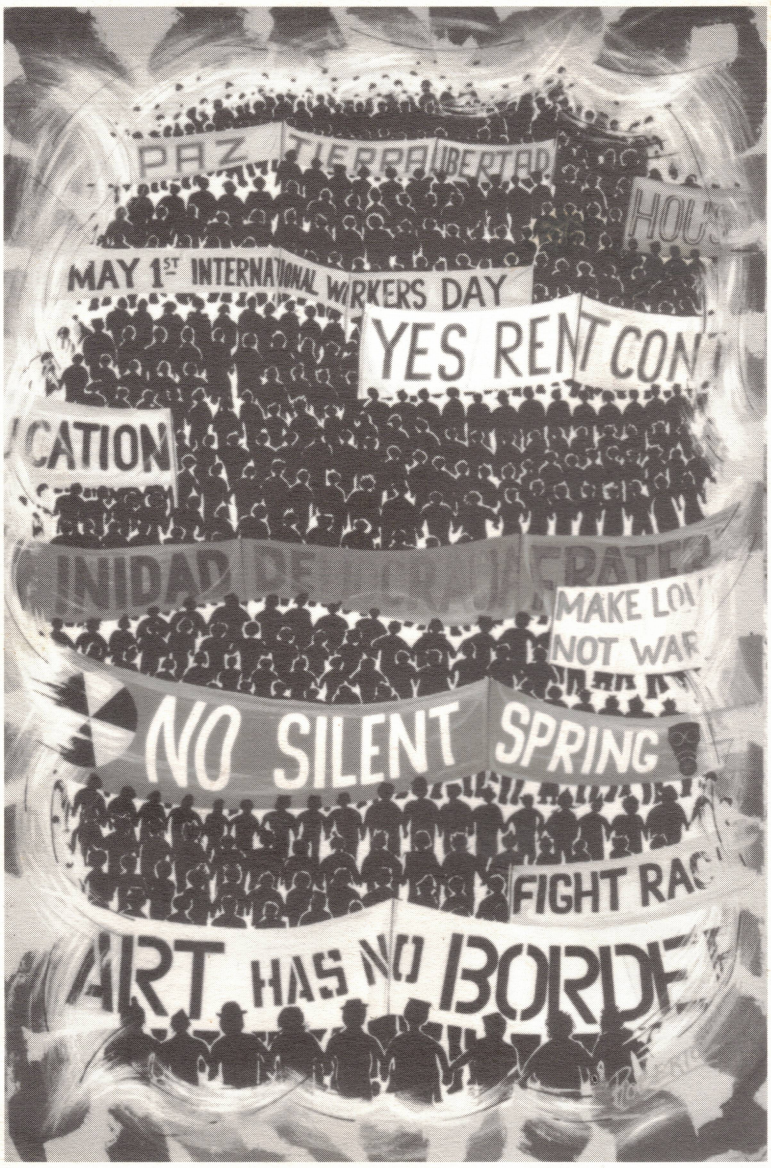
Front Cover Artist

Alicia LeVan received her BFA with specialized studies in Art History, Mythology and Feminist Philosophy from the S.M.F.A. and Tufts University. She has been active in artistic movements to raise public awareness about issues of violence against women and healing through the creative process.



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